



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

10/590,967

08/29/2006

Tsuyoshi Maeda

2006_1433A

5615

52349

7590

04/14/2009

WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK L.L.P.

1030 15th Street, N.W.

Suite 400 East

Washington, DC 20005-1503

EXAMINER

BYRNE-DIAKUN, JORI S

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2851

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/14/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/590,967	Applicant(s) MAEDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Jori S. Byrne-Diakun	Art Unit 2851	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 August 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 August 2006 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>09/25/2006</u> . | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>HP 2400 Printer Series</u> . |

Art Unit: 2851

DETAILED ACTION

This Office Action is in response to the Applicant's communication filed on 29 August, 2006. In virtue of this communication, claims 1-13 are currently presented in the instant application.

Priority/Acknowledgements

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted by the international office under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.
2. Acknowledgement is made of the continuing status under 35 U.S.C. 371 of PCT/JP2005/003951. Further acknowledgement is made of the associated International Search Report.

Disclosure Objections

Specification Objections

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: **Numerical References** section should further include elements 500, 500a-500c, 600, and S30-S52 if the section is included in the specification. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-13 are objected to because of the following informalities: both iterations of "said image generating apparatus" should be replaced with --each of said image generating apparatuses--. This error is repeated multiple times in Claims 1, 4-5, 7, 9-13, and should be corrected in each case to avoid issues with antecedent basis and lack of clarity. Please

Art Unit: 2851

note that in Claim 12, “said image generating unit” should be corrected in the same manner as described above to avoid antecedent basis issues. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claims 11 and 13 are directed to *program elements* lacking a physical structure, such as a tangible medium, and are considered to be non-statutory as they lack these physical media.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Masaki (JP 2002-271337).

With respect to Claim 11, Masaki discloses, in Fig. 6, a program causing a computer to execute the following steps: a receiving step of receiving information related to a status of

Art Unit: 2851

communication (S320; see [0050], Lines 1-6) with a plurality of image generating apparatuses from the image projecting apparatus (due to the intended use language relating to the structural limitations of “the image transmission system”, the only required elements of this limitations are “a receiving step of receiving information related to a status of communication” between a plurality of devices; a computer, user terminal 100, and a plurality of external apparatuses, printers P₁-P₅, in communication are disclosed by Masaki and therefore the method limitations of “a receiving step” is anticipated), an analyzing step of analyzing the information (S322-330; see [0050], Lines 7-15 and [0051], Lines 1-6), and a displaying step of displaying a result of the analysis in said analyzing step (S332-S336; see [0052], Lines 1-6).

With respect to Claim 13, Masaki discloses, in Fig. 6, a program causing a computer to execute the following steps: a monitoring step of monitoring a status of communication (S100-S114; see [0056], Lines 1-9 and [0057], Lines 1-9) with said plurality of image generating apparatuses (due to the intended use language relating to the structural limitations of “the image transmission system”, the only required elements of this limitations are “a monitoring step of monitoring a status of communication” between a plurality of devices; a computer, user terminal 100, and a plurality of external apparatuses, printers P₁-P₅, in communication are disclosed by Masaki and therefore the method limitations of “a monitoring step” is anticipated), a beacon generating step of generating information related to the communication status which is being monitored in said monitoring step (see [0058], Lines 1-14 and [0059], Lines 1-16, wherein the external associated apparatus generates information describing the communication status), and a transmitting step of transmitting the generated information to said computer (wherein S320 is a

Art Unit: 2851

receiving step by a receiving unit which implicitly requires an associated transmitting step by a transmitting unit on the wirelessly connected apparatus; see [0050], Lines 1-6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

11. Claims 1-6, 9-10, and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masahiro et al. (JP 2003-330436, henceforth referred to as Masahiro) in view of Masaki (JP 2002-271337).

With respect to Claim 1, Masahiro discloses, in Fig. 1, an image transmission system comprising a plurality of image generating apparatuses (PCs 1001 and 1002), each of which is operable to generate an image (see [0010], wherein it is stated that a screen displays the image outputted by 1001 and 1002) and an image projecting apparatus (liquid crystal projector 1003) operable to project the plurality of images transmitted from said image generating apparatus (see Fig. 1 and Abstract [Lines 7-11, the “Solution” section])

While it does disclose a two way communication between a plurality of image generating apparatuses and an image projecting apparatus via a wireless link, Masahiro, based on the best available translation of the documents, does not explicitly teach that said image projecting apparatus includes a status monitoring unit operable to monitor a status of communication with said plurality of image generating apparatuses, a beacon generating unit operable to generate information related to the communication status which is being monitored by said status monitoring unit, and a transmitting unit operable to transmit the generated information to said image generating apparatus, or that said image generating apparatus includes a receiving unit operable to receive the information from said image projecting apparatus, an analyzing unit operable to analyze the information, and a display unit operable to display a result of the analysis of said analyzing unit.

Masaki discloses, in Figs. 3 and 6, an image transmission system comprising an external associated apparatus linked to a computer via a wireless link (printers P₁-P₅) which includes a status monitoring unit operable to monitor a status of communication with said computer (S100-S114; see [0056], Lines 1-9 and [0057], Lines 1-9), a beacon generating unit operable to generate information related to the communication status which is being monitored by said status

Art Unit: 2851

monitoring unit (see [0058], Lines 1-14 and [0059], Lines 1-16, wherein the external associated apparatus generates information describing the communication status), and a transmitting unit operable to transmit the generated information to said computer (wherein S320 is a receiving step by a receiving unit which implicitly requires an associated transmitting step by a transmitting unit on the wirelessly connected apparatus; see [0050], Lines 1-6), and a computer (user terminal 100), which includes a receiving unit operable to receive the information from said external associated apparatus (S320; see [0050], Lines 1-6), an analyzing unit operable to analyze the information (S322-330; see [0050], Lines 7-15 and [0051], Lines 1-6), and a display unit operable to display a result of the analysis of said analyzing unit (S332-S336; see [0052], Lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the image transmission system of each of the plurality of computers and the projector of Masahiro with the wireless monitoring system as taught by Masaki, resulting in a plurality of computers and a projector communicating monitoring information via the above cited wireless communication system, to predictably provide for optimal evaluation of the connections between each computer and the projector as to facilitate a complete and clear presentation being displayed by the projector from the multiple image generating sources. Further, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify (if so desired) the combination of Masahiro and Masaki, as cited above, such that the projector (image projecting apparatus) comprises a plurality of projectors (as suggested by Masaki, wherein the computer is attached to a plurality of external apparatuses) to predictably allow the presentation

Art Unit: 2851

to occur in multiple different locations or to predictably provided a stereoscopic image in a single location.

With respect to Claim 2, the combination of Masahiro and Masaki discloses, in Fig. 3 of Masaki, that said beacon generating unit is operable to generate the information at a predetermined interval of time (see [0058], Lines 1-14, wherein the information beacon is generated based on frequency and therefore is generated at a predefined interval of time).

With respect to Claim 3, the combination of Masahiro and Masaki discloses, as combined with respect to Claim 1, that said transmitting unit is operable to broadcast the generated information to said plurality of image generating apparatuses (see Masaki [0058], Lines 1-14 and [0059], Lines 1-16 wherein the beacon data as shown in these paragraphs is transmitted to the receiver of the image generating computers via a wireless signal [as taught by both Masaki and Masahiro as the medium for communication between the computers and external devices]).

With respect to Claim 4, the combination of Masahiro and Masaki discloses, in Figs. 3 and 6 of Masaki, that said analyzing unit is operable to identify said image projecting apparatus to be an originator of the information (S322-330; see [0050], Lines 7-15 and [0051], Lines 1-6), said image generating apparatus further includes a notification unit operable to notify said identified image projecting apparatus of the reception of the information (see [0058], Lines 1-14 wherein the connection is analyzed by the computer and the computer acknowledges the

Art Unit: 2851

connection to the external device, allowing for further monitoring by the external device of the communication), said status monitoring unit is operable to count the number of notifications as the number of said image generating apparatuses connected to said image projecting apparatus (S100-S114; see [0056], Lines 1-9 and [0057], Lines 1-9), and said beacon generating unit is operable to generate the information including the number of said image generating apparatuses (upon combination it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art modify the beacon generating unit to provide the information including the number of image generating apparatuses to allow for the system to predictably sync without each image generating apparatus interfering with the wireless communications of another image generating apparatus).

With respect to Claim 5, the combination of Masahiro and Masaki discloses, in Fig. 3 of Masaki, that said image projecting apparatus further includes an ID assignment unit operable to assign a unique identifier to identify said image projecting apparatus, wherein said beacon generating unit is operable to generate the information including the identifier (see Masaki, [0060], Lines 1-7, wherein the beacon generating unit and an associated ID assignment unit generate an ID relating to the location of the external apparatus to be associated with the data transmitted to the computer [and thus the external apparatus provides a unique identifier for the external apparatus]).

With respect to Claim 6, the combination of Masahiro and Masaki discloses, in Figs. 3 and 6 of Masaki, that said system comprises said plurality of image projecting apparatuses (as cited with respect to Claim 1), wherein said receiving unit is operable to receive the information

Art Unit: 2851

from said plurality of image projecting apparatuses (Masaki, Fig. 6, S320; see [0050], Lines 1-6; the receiving unit receives information for each of a plurality of external devices which are image projecting apparatuses after combination with Masahiro as cited with respect to Claim 1), said analyzing unit is operable to identify said image projecting apparatus to be an originator of the information based on the identifier (S322-330; see [0050], Lines 7-15 and [0051], Lines 1-6; wherein the analyzer recognizes the position data of the individual external device), and said display unit is operable to display the identifier of said identified image projecting apparatus (S332-S336; see [0052], Lines 1-6; wherein the map is highlighted representation the location of the identified external device).

With respect to Claim 9, Masahiro discloses, in Fig. 1, an image transmission system comprising a plurality of image generating apparatuses (PCs 1001 and 1002), each of which is operable to generate an image (see [0010], wherein it is stated that a screen displays the image outputted by 1001 and 1002) and an image projecting apparatus (liquid crystal projector 1003) operable to project the plurality of images transmitted from said image generating apparatus (see Fig. 1 and Abstract [Lines 7-11, the “Solution” section])

While it does disclose a two way communication between a plurality of image generating apparatuses and an image projecting apparatus via a wireless link, Masahiro, based on the best available translation of the documents, does not explicitly teach a method, executed by the image projecting apparatus, comprising a status monitoring step of monitoring a status of communication with the plurality of image generating apparatuses, a beacon generating step of generating information related to the communication status which is being monitored in said

Art Unit: 2851

status monitoring step, and a transmitting step of transmitting the generated information to the image generating apparatus, or a method, executed by the image generating apparatus, comprising a receiving step of receiving the information from the image projecting apparatus, an analyzing step of analyzing the information, and a display step of displaying a result of the analysis in said analyzing step.

Masaki discloses, in Figs. 3 and 6, a method, executed by an external associated apparatus linked to a computer via a wireless link (printers P₁-P₅) comprising a status monitoring step of monitoring a status of communication with said computer (S100-S114; see [0056], Lines 1-9 and [0057], Lines 1-9), a beacon generating step of generating information related to the communication status which is being monitored by said status monitoring unit (see [0058], Lines 1-14 and [0059], Lines 1-16, wherein the external associated apparatus generates information describing the communication status), and a transmitting step of transmitting the generated information to said computer (wherein S320 is a receiving step by a receiving unit which implicitly requires an associated transmitting step by a transmitting unit on the wirelessly connected apparatus; see [0050], Lines 1-6), and a method, executed by a computer (user terminal 100), comprising a receiving step of receiving the information from said external associated apparatus (S320; see [0050], Lines 1-6), an analyzing step of analyzing the information (S322-330; see [0050], Lines 7-15 and [0051], Lines 1-6), and a display unit of displaying a result of the analysis of said analyzing unit (S332-S336; see [0052], Lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the image transmission method of each of the plurality of computers and the projector of Masahiro with the wireless monitoring method as taught by Masaki, resulting in a method

Art Unit: 2851

wherein a plurality of computers and a projector communicate monitoring information via the above cited wireless communication method, to predictably provide for optimal evaluation of the connections between each computer and the projector as to facilitate a complete and clear presentation being displayed by the projector from the multiple image generating sources.

With respect to Claim 10, Masahiro discloses, in Fig. 1, an image transmission system comprising a plurality of image generating apparatuses (PCs 1001 and 1002), each of which is operable to generate an image (see [0010], wherein it is stated that a screen displays the image outputted by 1001 and 1002) and an image projecting apparatus (liquid crystal projector 1003) operable to project the plurality of images transmitted from said image generating apparatus (see Fig. 1 and Abstract [Lines 7-11, the “Solution” section])

While it does disclose a two way communication between a plurality of image generating apparatuses and an image projecting apparatus via a wireless link, Masahiro, based on the best available translation of the documents, does not explicitly teach that said image projecting apparatus includes a status monitoring unit operable to monitor a status of communication with said plurality of image generating apparatuses, a beacon generating unit operable to generate information related to the communication status which is being monitored by said status monitoring unit, and a transmitting unit operable to transmit the generated information to said image generating apparatus, or that said image generating apparatus includes a receiving unit operable to receive the information from said image projecting apparatus, an analyzing unit operable to analyze the information, and a display unit operable to display a result of the analysis of said analyzing unit.

Art Unit: 2851

Masaki discloses, in Fig. 6, a computer (user terminal 100), which includes a receiving unit operable to receive the information from an external associated apparatus (S320; see [0050], Lines 1-6), an analyzing unit operable to analyze the information (S322-330; see [0050], Lines 7-15 and [0051], Lines 1-6), and a display unit operable to display a result of the analysis of said analyzing unit (S332-S336; see [0052], Lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the image transmission system of each of the plurality of computers and the projector of Masahiro with the wireless monitoring system as taught by Masaki, resulting in a plurality of computers and a projector communicating monitoring information via the above cited wireless communication system, to predictably provide for optimal evaluation of the connections between each computer and the projector as to facilitate a complete and clear presentation being displayed by the projector from the multiple image generating sources.

With respect to Claim 12, Masahiro discloses, in Fig. 1, an image transmission system comprising a plurality of image generating apparatuses (PCs 1001 and 1002), each of which is operable to generate an image (see [0010], wherein it is stated that a screen displays the image outputted by 1001 and 1002) and an image projecting apparatus (liquid crystal projector 1003) operable to project the plurality of images transmitted from said image generating apparatus (see Fig. 1 and Abstract [Lines 7-11, the “Solution” section])

While it does disclose a two way communication between a plurality of image generating apparatuses and an image projecting apparatus via a wireless link, Masahiro does not explicitly teach that said image projecting apparatus includes a status monitoring unit operable to monitor a

Art Unit: 2851

status of communication with said plurality of image generating apparatuses, a beacon generating unit operable to generate information related to the communication status which is being monitored by said status monitoring unit, and a transmitting unit operable to transmit the generated information to said image generating apparatus, or that said image generating apparatus includes a receiving unit operable to receive the information from said image projecting apparatus, an analyzing unit operable to analyze the information, and a display unit operable to display a result of the analysis of said analyzing unit.

Masaki discloses, in Fig. 3, an external associated apparatus linked to a computer via a wireless link (printers P₁-P₅) which includes a status monitoring unit operable to monitor a status of communication with said computer (S100-S114; see [0056], Lines 1-9 and [0057], Lines 1-9), a beacon generating unit operable to generate information related to the communication status which is being monitored by said status monitoring unit (see [0058], Lines 1-14 and [0059], Lines 1-16, wherein the external associated apparatus generates information describing the communication status), and a transmitting unit operable to transmit the generated information to said image generating apparatus (wherein S320 is a receiving step by a receiving unit which implicitly requires an associated transmitting step by a transmitting unit on the wirelessly connected apparatus; see [0050], Lines 1-6).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the image transmission system of each of the plurality of computers and the projector of Masahiro with the wireless monitoring system as taught by Masaki, resulting in a plurality of computers and a projector communicating monitoring information via the above cited wireless communication system, to predictably provide for optimal evaluation of the connections between

Art Unit: 2851

each computer and the projector as to facilitate a complete and clear presentation being displayed by the projector from the multiple image generating sources.

12. Claims 7-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Masahiro et al. (JP 2003-330436), henceforth referred to as Masahiro, in view of Masaki (JP 2002-271337), as applied to Claim 5 above, and further in view of the HP 2400 Series Printer (“HP LaserJet 2400 Printer series (Q5961A) – specifications and warranty”, April 9, 2005).

With respect to Claim 7, the combination of Masahiro and Masaki discloses all limitations of Claim 5, as modified above.

The combination of Masahiro and Masaki is, however, silent to said image generating apparatus further including an inquiry unit operable to accept the assignment of the identifier of said image projecting apparatus, to generate a confirmation packet for inquiring about the location of said image projecting apparatus, and to transmit the generated confirmation packet to said image projecting apparatus assigned the identifier, and to said image projecting apparatus further including a confirmation packet receiving unit operable to receive the confirmation packet and a response output unit operable to output a response to the reception of the confirmation packet upon receiving the confirmation packet.

The HP 2400 Series Printer (when used in conjunction with a computer) teaches a communication between a computer and an external apparatus, wherein the computer assesses the identity of the attached external apparatus (as to establish two way communication with the device), to generate a confirmation packet for inquiring about the location of the external device

Art Unit: 2851

when the computer is preparing to send information to the external device, and to transmit the generated confirmation packet to the identified external device to establish connection prior to an attempt to utilize the external device by the computer. The HP 2400 Series Printer further teaches an external device operable to receive the confirmation packet and to output a response to the reception of the confirmation packet upon receiving the confirmation packet (output response is a flashing LED lamp labeled “Attention” and a second flashing LED lamp labeled “Data”, wherein each LED flashes based on the status of the external device with respect to the communication between the computer and the device).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify the image transmission system of the combination of Masahiro and Masaki such that the external device (i.e. the image projection device) included a receiving unit and an outputting unit as taught by the HP 2400 Series Printer and such that the computers (i.e. the image generating apparatuses) included an inquiry unit as taught by the HP 2400 Series Printer (when used in conjunction with a computer) to predictably assist the user by providing visual confirmation that the system is operating as expected and to predictably further assist the user by providing a warning alert should an error occur and not appear on the display unit of the image generating apparatuses.

With respect to Claim 8, the combination of Masahiro, Masaki, and the HP 2400 Series Printer, as cited above, disclose that said response output unit is operable to output the response by making a buzzer sound or flashing an LED lamp (see the HP 2400 Series Printer, wherein the

Art Unit: 2851

output response is a flashing LED lamp labeled “Attention”, and a second flashing LED lamp labeled “Data”, on the external panel).

Citation of Relevant Prior Art

13. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Prior Art Sakashita et al. (Pub. No.: US 2001/0017630 A1) teaches the projection of a composite image wherein a single screen presents a combination of selected image signals;
- Prior Art Platzker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,388,654 B1) teaches a presentation system wherein a plurality of different locations with projectors and computers communicate to allow for remote presentations and conferencing;
- Prior Art Karasawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,793,352 B2) teaches a projector control wirelessly by three image generating mobile devices and the projector presents a plurality of different projection data sets simultaneously;
- Prior Art Sato et al. (Pub. No.: US 2004/0227900 A1) teaches a plurality of computer systems in two way wired communication with a projector; and
- Prior Art Yamaguchi et al. (Pub. No.: US 2005/0174547 A1) teaches a plurality of remote image generating devices controlling a plurality of projectors in different locations such that the projectors project composite images such that the images do not overlap.

Art Unit: 2851

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jori S. Byrne-Diakun whose telephone number is (571) 270-7555. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30 AM to 5 PM EST, Monday thru Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diane Lee can be reached on (571) 272-2399. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/J. S. B./
Examiner, Art Unit 2851
04/10/2009

/Diane I Lee/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2851